

ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE CLOSES 2012 WITH WOW
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On December 14, 2012, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) Adult System of Care (ASOC) hosted the first Wellness Outreach Worker (WOW) graduate meeting/end-of-year celebration. The celebration was attended by more than 70 WOW graduates. WOW consists of volunteers who provide peer support in LACDMH's directly operated programs. Currently, there are close to 100 volunteers supporting the recovery of clients and family members at approximately 18 of our clinics and wellness centers as well as in Spanish-speaking communities.

Scott Hanada, LCSW, ASOC Program Head, welcomed WOW graduates to the celebration and provided a wonderful introduction for Cathy Warner, ASOC Deputy Director. Ms. Warner addressed the WOW grads, thanking them for the support they provide to peers and to the department. Ms. Warner also discussed LACDMH's vision for the future and shared information on how healthcare reform is expected to impact our department. Ms. Warner's inspirational words were well received by all.



The WOW end-of-year celebration included entertainment by our very own LACDMH choir. The choir sang several traditional holiday songs and invited the crowd to sing along. WOW graduates were provided with lunch, cake, donated raffle prizes and the good will of all present. The event was closed by ASOC's ad hoc choir who led the crowd in a spirited holiday season sing-along. The event concluded with words of appreciation and holiday wishes from attendees.

The second floor conference room was wonderfully decorated by ASOC staff and WOW graduates who volunteered to help make the last event for 2012 a joyful and inspiring experience, and a springboard for an outstanding 2013.

